I have not attempted anything but a superficial survey of Indian labour, but it is enough to show the great variety **of** occupation and the need for the protection of the workers. For the most part, the Indian worker is still closely in touch with the land; he is still more than half a peasant, though M. N. Roy goes too far when he suggests that there is no proletariat in India. Sometimes brothers will take in turns to work in a factory and till the soil. The general illiteracy makes it easy to exploit Indian labour and the problem of improving its conditions is no easy one. At this point we may turn to some consideration of trade unions and factory legislation.

We have seen how the peasant is lured to the town. Often he stays there to increase his meagre income and becomes a semi-permanent town-dweller. Up to almost the end of the nineteenth century there was no State Control over Industry in India. Employers were free to exploit the workers to the full. Hours were excessive, wages were very low; there was no regulation of age or any legislation to safeguard the workers from injury. The first Factory Act was passed in 1881. This limited the employment of children and provided for the fencing of machinery. It threw the burden of inspection on the District Officer who neither had the time nor the knowledge for the work.

The Act virtually became a dead letter.

In 1882 after a boy of fifteen \vas killed in a mill by being entangled in a cog-wheel after working fourteen hours, including the whole night, an Englishman was employed to study conditions and to make a report. Among other things, he reported that women were employed for long periods for twenty-three hours a day. The wage was 3 or 4 annas a day